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RECEIVED DOCUMENTS DIVISION

ARMY'S TOP TWO—Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Army Chief of Staff, congratulates new Sergeant Major of the Army George W. Dunaway, after swearing-in ceremonies in the Pentagon.

Gen. Westmoreland Praises Treatment Given Wounded Fighting War in Vietnam

The American soldier wounded on the battlefield in Vietnam has the best chance of survival of any war to date.

That statement was made by Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Army Chief of Staff, in Philadelphia, Pa., Aug. 22. Then he added: "The mortality among wounded admitted to medical treatment facilities is extremely low—less than three per cent."

Gen. Westmoreland, addressing the national convention of Disabled American Veterans, said the more seriously wounded casualties are reaching treatment facilities alive, so that they may receive the full benefits of modern American medicine.

Praising helicopter evacuation, Gen. Westmoreland said much of the credit for outstanding medical treatment in Vietnam had to go to the helicopters and their valiant crews. Other major factors contributing to the excellent medical results, he said, are the ready availability of whole blood, highly skilled medical teams, well-equipped forward hospitals and effective management of medical resources.

The Army's Chief of Staff said the greatly increased use of helicopters in Vietnam for the rapid evacuation of wounded brings many patients to surgery and definitive care much earlier than was previously possible.

"At the same time," he said, "by this procedure some mortally wounded patients, whom no skill or care can

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LBJ Repeats Stand Against Curtailment Of Vietnam Bombing

President Johnson has made it clear that he does not intend to halt the bombing below the 20th Parallel in Vietnam.

"The next move must be theirs," he told the National Convention of Veterans of Foreign Wars in Detroit Aug. 19.

"In human affairs," he said, "there is no more basic lesson than that it takes two to make a bargain and to make a peace. We have made a reasonable offer and we have taken a major first step. That offer has not been accepted.

"This Administration does not intend to move further until it has good reason to believe that the other side intends seriously to join us in de-escalating the war and moving seriously toward peace.

"We are willing to take chances for peace but we cannot make foolhardy gestures for which our fighting men will pay the price by giving their lives.

"Ask yourselves," the President said, "where would the position of this nation and its allies be if, having taken a major step toward de-escalation and peace already, we responded now to their hostility with still another major unilateral step? If you were in Hanoi, would you then de-escalate and negotiate? Or would you not demand another unilateral step, until finally the whole foundation of freedom for the nations of Southeast Asia was beyond repair?

"This President—This Administration—will not move down that slippery slope," President Johnson said.

The President then pointed out that this is a time when Americans have

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DISABILITY COMPENSATION RATES

Degree of Disability	Current Monthly Payment	PL 90-493 Monthly Payment Effective 1/1/69
10 per cent	$21	$23
20 per cent	40	43
30 per cent	60	65
40 per cent	82	89
50 per cent	113	122
60 per cent	136	147
70 per cent	161	174
80 per cent	186	201
90 per cent	209	226
100 per cent	300	400

President Johnson Signs Bill Increasing VA Disability Pay

President Johnson signed a bill into law Aug. 19 that gives approximately 1,952,000 service-disabled veterans increased compensation payments beginning next Jan. 1.

Under the provisions of the new law more than 100,000 veterans with 100 per cent service-connected disabilities will be increased from $300 to $400 a month. In addition, about 1,840,000 veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 10 to 90 per cent will have their payments increased eight per cent.

President Johnson took note of the measure in his Detroit speech Aug. 19. He said the bill provides much more than just financial stability for a disabled veteran. "It offers him new hope—a new help—in his fight to resume a normal life."

Continuing, the President said "This bill reaffirms our gratitude to those who have sacrificed so much for freedom. It represents our pledge that they will never be forsaken and they will never be forgotten."

The Veterans Administration said first year cost of the second increase in disability compensation payments to be enacted under the Johnson administration is estimated at $234.7 million.

Currently, the VA said, compensation payments to nearly two million service-disabled veterans total about $2 billion a year.

Passed unanimously by the House on June 6 and by the Senate Aug. 2, the new law also authorizes the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to provide invalid lifts, other therapeutic or rehabilitative devices and medical equipment and supplies to eligible veterans. This provision became effective when the bill was signed.

The increased compensation rates were recommended by the U.S. Veterans Advisory Commission appointed last year at the direction of the President "to conduct a comprehensive study of the pension, compensation and benefits system for veterans, their families and their survivors . . . to assure that our tax dollars are being utilized most wisely and that our Government is meeting fully its responsibilities to all those to whom we owe so much."

The increased rates will be reflected in the January 1969 disability compensation checks veterans receive from the VA.

The VA said veterans drawing disability compensation need not write or contact the VA in advance concerning the increase.

GI Home Loans Can Be Prepaid Without Penalty

In addition to the obvious advantages of low or no down payments, a generally lower interest rate and longer mortgage period, G. I. home loans offer eligible veterans the right to pay off their loans at any time without a penalty, the Veterans Administration reminds prospective veteran home purchasers and present G. I. home owners.

Since the VA first began guaranteeing veterans' home loans in 1944 under the World War II G. I. Bill, nearly 7 million home loans valued at about $70 billion have been made. Of this number, nearly half—or 3,234,000 loans in the amount of $25 billion—have been repaid in full.

The maturity term of VA guaranteed G. I. home loan mortgages varies with the type of construction and the policy of lenders. According to the VA, however, two-thirds of the G. I. home loans guaranteed last year were for the 30-year maximum.

On the average, VA says, veterans pay off 30-year mortgages in 16.5 years. Average periods for paying off mortgages of shorter duration are: 25-year mortgages—14 years; 20-year mortgages—11 years; 15-year mortgages—8 years.

Veterans with existing G. I. home loans or veterans who plan to use their G. I. Bill entitlement to buy homes may get information on the advantages of VA-guaranteed or direct home loans from the Veterans Administration regional office where their records are maintained.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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No Curtailment in Viet Bombing

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to face certain hard questions and they have to keep certain facts clearly before them.

"First, are we Americans prepared to say to Hanoi that we are ready to have their men by the thousands and their supplies by the tons pour down through the DMZ against our American sons and our allies without obstruction, whether or not Hanoi takes action to de-escalate the conflict? Well, that is what would be involved in an immediate halt to all bombing in North Vietnam.

"Second, are we Americans ready to let the Communist forces assemble without interference around Saigon, Danang, Hue, and other cities and then and there deliver their attacks at times and places of their own choice when it suits their own advantage? That is what would be involved if we should give up our search-and-destroy operations.

"Third, let us all remember that it is a long-established policy of the government of the United States and the government of Vietnam that the political future of that country should be decided by free elections based on the principle of one-man, one-vote. It is the Communists who have refused to even discuss these elections. It is they who seek a solution by bullet rather than by ballot.

"Fourth, let us all remember that with the encouragement of the American people, these gallant South Vietnamese have created their own constitution, have created their own government. They have voted freely—often at the risk of their own lives—in elections as closely observed as any elections in modern time; in which 60 per cent of all the electorate participated."

The President said he believed peace will come "if we are steady and it is going to come, if I have anything to do with it, on honorable terms. I can not tell you precisely when it will come, but I believe it will come because military victory is beyond the enemy's grasp. . .

"However great our anxiety for peace; however great our concern for the war in Vietnam; however great our passionate desire that the killing shall stop, I do not believe that the American people are going to walk away from this struggle unless they can walk away with it on honorable terms."

Continuing, the President said "when we sent our negotiating team off to Paris I told them two things:

"First, put aside all considerations of domestic politics; second, work for a genuine peace—the peace which is a vital interest of the United States, now and which will be 10 years from now.

"I did not take myself out of personal partisan Presidential politics on March 31st in order to permit our pursuit of peace to be slightly colored in the slightest degree by domestic political considerations. I want peace in Vietnam. I want it perhaps more than any single living American individual. But the pursuit of peace in this Administration is going to be governed by America's abiding interests as we see them.

"I do have faith, a faith that strengthened me on March 31st—that when the political campaign is all over—and the man takes up the responsibility of the Presidency—whoever he may be—he will take a similar view. Right now we are doing all that diplomacy can do to end the war through the talks in Paris. And we shall continue.

". . . I shall do everything I possibly can between now and January, every waking moment, to bring an honorable peace to Southeast Asia. I do hope that it can be possible. But if not, I have faith that the next President—faced with the consequences to his own people and the consequences to the peace of the world—I have faith that he, too, will insist on an honorable peace.

"So these are my views on Vietnam. This is my faith."

PACAF COMMANDER ARRIVES—Gen. Joseph J. Nazzaro (right), commander-in-chief, Pacific Air Forces, is greeted on his recent arrival at Tan Son Nhut Air Base by Gen. George S. Brown, 7th AF commander. Gen. Nazzaro visited Southeast Asia for the first time since assuming command of PACAF Aug. 1.

THE CRISIS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

An unlikely combination of intellectuals demanding greater freedom of expression and a Communist leader intent on turning out of Party and government the leaders of a repressive regime which had caused untold economic harm, started in January 1968 to chart a new course for Czechoslovakia's more than 14 million citizens.

Led by Alexander Dubcek, a Communist whose economic plans envisioned profits as the goal for the nation's industries, the Czechs and Slovaks began to enjoy freedoms seldom heard of behind communism's Iron Curtain.

Commentators for the country's newspapers, radio and television stations denounced secret police activities and demanded public trials of those responsible for past excesses. Rehabilitation programs were underway for men and women punished under the Communist regime of the last 20 years. And a liberal travel law permitted citizens of this once-tightly-controlled country to travel abroad.

A Challenge to Russia

These freedoms, and many others, caused a huge new crack in the Iron Curtain, a crack which some observers felt might eventually change the face of Eastern Europe.

The very fact that tiny Czechoslovakia—a nation 600 miles long and less than 100 miles wide—was challenging hard-line Communist doctrine and faced up to Russia's pressures captured the imagination of people in other Eastern European countries.

Demands for an end to censorship and the institution of strict controls over police activities were voiced in Hungary; and in Yugoslavia, President Tito personally promised student leaders fair hearings on their grievances and a re-examination of the nation's economic program.

In Czechoslovakia, with little fanfare in the streets, a highly-industrialized nation adopted a goal of "socialist democracy"—a goal yet to be fully defined. But, both Dubcek, who wielded the power in the country's Communist party, and the new President, Ludvik Svoboda, made it clear that the "democracy" they referred to would be within the framework of the Communist-controlled National Front coalition of parties.

Dubcek pointed out that while he "did not intend to lead the country into conditions which existed before the pre-January days," he also had no intention of returning to conditions which existed before the Communist takeover in February 1948.

In January 1968 a "quiet revolution" took place in Czechoslovakia, a key Eastern European Communist nation. Two decades of harsh repression suddenly ended, and the Czech people were being asked to build an undefined "socialist democracy."

On August 21 troops of the U.S.S.R. and four of her Warsaw Pact allies (East Germany, Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria) invaded Czechoslovakia and "interned" her liberal Communist leaders.

The United States and six other nations immediately introduced a resolution to the United Nations Security Council calling for the withdrawal of Soviet and other Warsaw Pact forces from Czech soil.

The background of the "quiet revolution" which prompted this armed invasion is described here.

Two Decades of Democracy

That Western-style democracy flourished in the Czechoslovakia created by World War I's peace talks amazed political scientists.

The two peoples—Czechs and Slovaks—may have shared common ancestors from a thousand years past, but they had no common national heritage. Hungarians ruled the Slovaks for 10 centuries until 1918, while the Czechs had a long history of independence before falling under Hapsburg domination.

But, so firmly were democratic ideals made a part of the nation through the guidance of Western-oriented leaders such as President Thomas Masaryk—whose son, Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk, was to die mysteriously during the first days of the Communist takeover 28 years later in 1948—that Czechoslovakia was one of the few new nations to remain a democracy through the turbulent 1920s and 1930s when other countries were falling victims to the promises of dictators.

A multi-party Parliament provided a forum for religious, trade, worker, and minority political groupings. The small Communist party campaigned in the free elections of the era but never received more than 10 percent of the votes.

The tragic Munich pact of 1938, which ceded to Hitler's Germany more than 41,000 square miles and an estimated 5.3 million citizens of an independent nation, doomed democracy in Czechoslovakia and opened the way for World War II.

A Communist System

World War I had redrawn the geographic map of Eastern Europe; World War II redrew the political map of the area.

A wartime Czechoslovakian government-in-exile watched from London as Soviet armies fought their way through Eastern Europe, leaving in their tracks firmly-established Communist parties. From Poland's Baltic seashore in the north to the Adriatic coast-line of Yugoslavia and Albania in the south, communism became a way of life and a system of government.

Albania, Yugoslavia, and Poland ended the war with Communist regimes. Bulgaria joined their ranks in 1946.

In Czechoslovakia, the Communists had purged liberals in the wake of the war. In the first—and only—free elections held in that country after World War II, the Communist party's candidates received 38 percent of the votes.

For 18 months, a coalition government ruled Czechoslovakia under a Communist premier. But in mid-February 1948, to protest the continued harassment of democratic leaders, the 11 non-Communist ministers of the government resigned.

This was the move the Communists had waited for. In less than a month, supported by mobs in the streets of the capital, the Communists seized control of the country. (Hungary and Rumania had previously become Communist-controlled satellite states.)

Economic Breakdown

The industries of Czechoslovakia were a vital addition to the Soviet bloc. Before the war, Czechoslovakia's industries produced more goods than the other 11 Eastern European nations combined. An estimated 80 percent of Czechoslovakia's products were sold in the world's highly competitive foreign markets.

Fitted ruthlessly into Soviet economic planning in 1949 when nationalization was completed, the Czechoslovakian industries, which at one time earned most of the country's foreign exchange, were soon earning only Russian rubles. Dominated by Communist planners, the country's industrial managers were transformed from highly skilled men capable of designing and producing sophisticated equipment into robots who merely filled production schedules with increasingly outmoded equipment.

By the early 1960s it was evident even to Soviet leaders that their economic plans were going awry.

Antonin Novotny, President of the nation as well as First Secretary of the Communist party, refused to act even as national income declined nearly 4 percent in 1963. In the previous year, the country's agricultural production had declined by 6 percent.

The growing economic disruption of the nation's once vigorous economy, and the regime's harsh repression of student and intellectual leaders led to a confrontation between Novotny and Dubcek in January 1968.

Backed by a majority of the party's leaders, Dubcek forced Novotny first to turn over his party powers, and then—in March—to resign as the nation's president.

Economic Reform Programs

In control, Dubcek immediately announced a series of programs designed to reform the nation's failing economy. The most important was decentralization of state-controlled industries. The role of the Communist party in economic planning was sharply curtailed. At the same time, Dubcek announced his program for a "socialist democracy" which would guarantee personal freedoms and provide for a federal system of government which would give the Czechs and Slovaks equal voice.

In April he called for an extraordinary session of the party's Central Committee to support his reforms.

In setting the mood for the opening session of the policy-making Central Committee of the Communist Party —which ended with the suspension from the party of Novotny and several of his followers—Dubcek said that the party must play a "leading role in the development of the new program, but at the same time must realize that it is not the sole administrator of society and its goals."

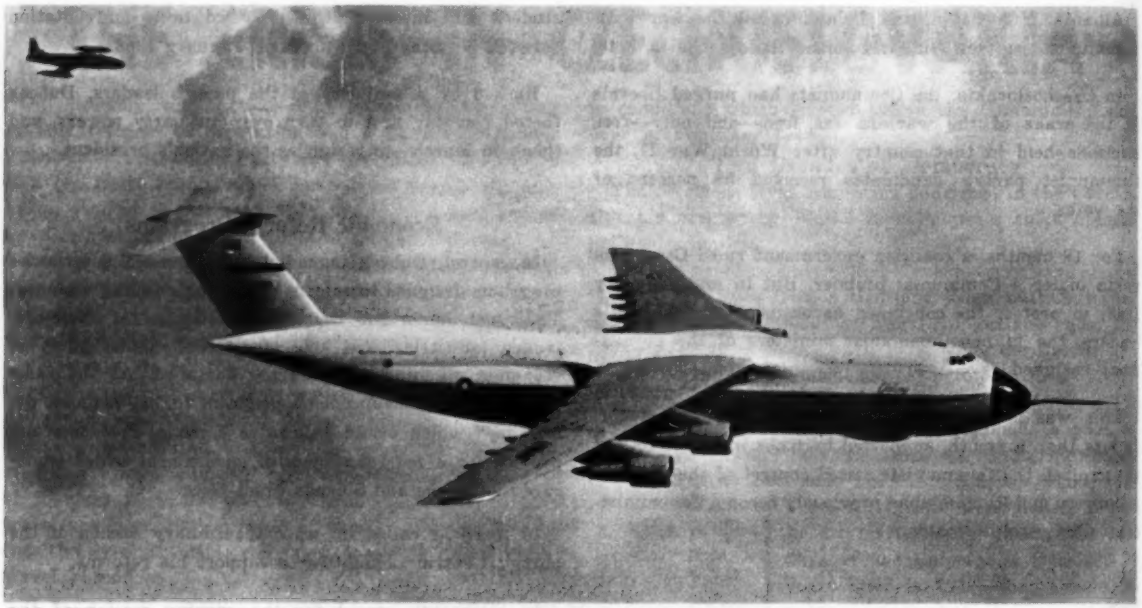
The new leaders of Czechoslovakia stressed their continuing reliance on the country's alliance with the Soviet Union and the Communist bloc, but also indicated that the interests of the nation would be the primary consideration in the future.

Must Pay Their Own Way

They made it clear that the nationalized enterprises must pay their own way instead of relying on subsidies, and that one of the goals of "socialist democracy" was that of doing away with the economic system which made possible the large accumulation of unprofitable work.

A leading economic planner of the new government stated that "our enterprises must learn how to produce what is needed for the domestic and foreign markets."

Czechoslovakia's experiment with "socialist democracy" was being closely watched by the USSR and by Communist leaders in neighboring nations. For, if Dubcek's program had been unchallenged, observers foresaw similar demands in other Communist nations.



GALAXY AND LITTLE FRIEND—The Air Force C-5 Galaxy skirts the edge of a cloud bank during one of eight test flights completed between June 30 and August 5. Accompanied by its ever-present T-33 chase plane (top left) that carries two observers, the Galaxy logged 23 hours 48 minutes in eight flights before going into the hangar for new instrumentation. It resumes air work in September, concentrating on flight flutter tests that will continue into January, 1969.

DOD Directive Gives Guidelines on Equal Opportunity Employment

The Defense Department has released a list of factors, conditions and practices which indicate compliance by federal contractors with requirements to provide equal opportunity employment under Executive Order 11246.

Factors listed include such items as recruitment practices designed to attract minority groups, interviewing techniques which avoid bias, nondiscriminatory test criteria and training programs, equality in facilities, and fair appraisal procedures.

The Defense Department said the factors are to be used by officials of the Contracts Compliance Office, part of the Defense Supply Agency's Defense Contract Administration Services, in conducting compliance reviews required under the rules which implement the Executive Order (Chapter 60, Title 41, Code of Federal Regulations).

Purpose of the compliance reviews is to determine if prime contractors and sub-contractors maintain nondiscriminatory hiring and employment practices and are taking affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed and that employees are placed, trained, upgraded, promoted and otherwise fairly treated during employment without regard to race, creed, color or national origin.

"Compliance reviews consist of a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of each aspect of the aforementioned practice, policies and conditions resulting therefrom," the Defense Department said.

Listing of factors is intended to assist the reviewer in his task of bringing into focus those aspects of a contractor's program that must be considered if a reliable judgment is to be made regarding the contractor's compliance or noncompliance.

The Defense Department said the factors listed are not collectively exhaustive. They "do not represent all of the actions or practices which a contractor might undertake in support of the equal employment program."

Conversely, DOD said, "the absence of any of these factors does not necessarily establish a condition of noncompliance."

Each finding that results from the application of the items in the listing to an actual plant situation must be related to other findings, DOD said.

The total findings then must be related to actual results in terms of employment of minority applicants and the treatment of employes without regard to race, creed, color or national origin. Results will determine whether the contractor is in compliance with the Executive Order, DOD said.

Offices of Contracts Compliance are established in the 11 Regional offices of Defense Contract Administration Service. The offices are responsible for elimination of discrimination by federal contractors.

Viet Wounded Get Top Treatment

(Continued from Page 1)

save, are reaching hospitals alive. In earlier conflicts they would have died on the battlefield and been considered and counted among the 'killed in action.' Despite this, the case fatality rate for the wounded who are admitted to medical treatment facilities is not higher but is, rather, slightly lower than that of the Korean War."

Gen. Westmoreland explained how medical evacuation works in Vietnam: "Army helicopter ambulance units are strategically placed in South Vietnam to provide a network coverage of the entire area of operations.

"The request for air evacuation is normally made by the medical aid man at the site of the casualty. The call is placed over a radio net and is received by the supporting air ambulance unit. Quite frequently the call is received by an air ambulance already in flight which may be diverted from a less urgent mission.

"Once the pickup is made, the patient is flown directly to the medical treatment facility best suited for the care that is required. The inbound medical aircraft commander informs the receiving hospital by radio of his time of arrival, the nature of the casualties on board, and any special reception arrangements that may be indicated. Thus the receiving hospital is able to have everything in order to receive the casualty and immediately provide surgical care.

"No soldier in Vietnam is more than 35 minutes away from a medical facility capable of giving definitive, resuscitative lifesaving treatment," Gen. Westmoreland added.

He said there is no group in Vietnam that is more heroic, nor more highly regarded, than the "gallant medical crews of the helicopter evacuation system." It is a major factor, he said, in the high morale of Army troops in Vietnam.

The general also pointed out how, in many cases, patients are evacuated directly from Vietnam by air to the United States, a trip that takes only 25 hours, including four hours ground time.

Discussing how advanced surgical techniques have saved many lives and prevented a great deal of suffering in Vietnam, Gen. Westmoreland said one such technique "is blood vessel surgery, which, even as late as the Korean War, was used only rarely." In Vietnam, he said, it is commonplace, significantly reducing the number of amputations.

Advancement in the art of resuscitation and treatment of severe shock by the use of whole blood and electrolytes have enabled medical officers to save many additional lives, he said.

Turing his attention to the medical aid men who are found with each unit in the field, Gen. Westmoreland said:

"They play a key role in caring for our fighting men. I am sure that each of you is fully aware of their dedication—the drama of lifesaving which begins with these brave men moving shoulder to shoulder in the thick of battle with the foot soldier."

And their dedication and professionalism doesn't stop there, the general told the Disabled American Veterans. "The medical technicians' and wardmasters," he said, "play important roles at each level of treatment. They assist skilled doctors and nurses in giving each patient the finest professional care.

"So, from the battlefield to our finest hospitals, an endless chain of dedicated people serve courageously and tirelessly to care for our fighting men.

"The American soldier deserves the best medical care and treatment we can give him," Gen. Westmoreland said, "and he is getting it."

FOUR IN A ROW—Maj. Gen. Melvin Zais, commanding general, 101st Air Cav. Div., shows off the awards and decorations he has just presented to Maj. Norman D. Carter at Camp Eagle, Vietnam. Maj. Carter received the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with "V" Device and Purple Heart for actions while flying with A Co., 159th Assault Support Helicopter Bn. in northern I Corps.

Sec. Rusk Gives Reactions to Czech Situation

There was "extraordinary unanimity" among nations around the world in the condemnation of Warsaw Pact forces in the intervention in Czechoslovakia, Secretary of State Dean Rusk told newsmen Aug. 22.

The secretary said he had just reported to President Johnson at a Cabinet meeting on the Czech situation and had informed him of the reaction of solidarity.

He told the newsmen "this has come not only from the Western countries, but from Africa, Asia and Latin America, including important elements in the Communist world.

Secretary Rusk said U.S. interest in the situation was based upon the right of a small country to exercise its charter rights under the United Nations Charter, to live its own life and work out its internal problems in its own way.

"We do hope that the reaction of the entire world on this situation," Secretary Rusk said, "will cause the responsible leaders in the Warsaw Pact to think again about their action, to act with moderation as far as the Czechoslovakian people and their leaders are concerned, not to engage in punitive or excessive measures against these people, and to bring about a prompt withdrawal of their forces."

The Secretary of State pointed out that the intervention in Czechoslovakia was not, in a treaty sense, "a direct responsibility of ours in the sense that we have no bilateral commitments to Czechoslovakia, but we have a broad interest in situations of this sort wherever they might arise, where the interests of a member of the United Nations are so desperately periled as they are at the present time."

Asked if the Czech government had contacted and asked for U.S. support, Mr. Rusk said the Czech government had made it clear both in Washington and New York City—and by its own broadcasts—what their view of the situation was.

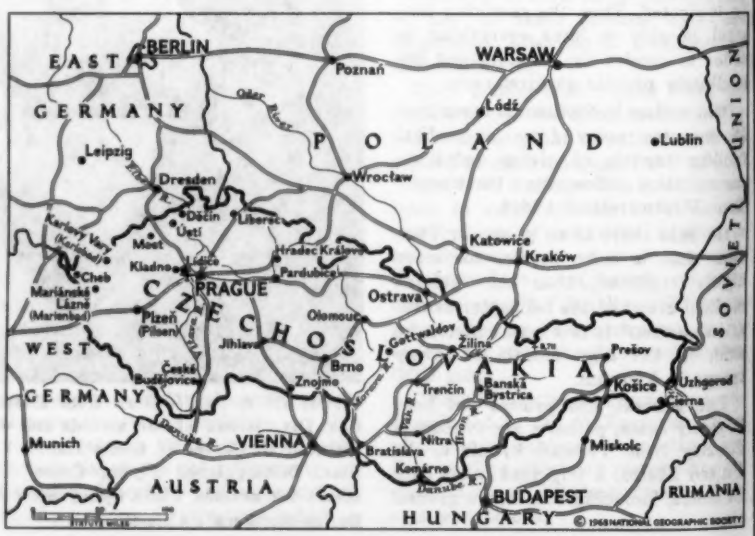
"They have not asked for any specific action or steps as far as we are concerned. We are responding to the general requirements of peace in the international situation and the general notion as set forth in the Charter that all nations, large and small, have a right to those protections and those privileges in the United Nations Charter."

The fact that a large nation lives within the reach of a large nation does not mean that that large nation is entitled to move in on it to reorganize its internal affairs. Mr. Rusk said.

A newsman noted that people were suggesting the U.S. did not have a moral right to criticize the Russians because of our role in Vietnam and our role in Santo Domingo in the past and asked for Secretary Rusk's response to that kind of thinking.

Secretary Rusk said "that is beyond my understanding," and then explained:

"There is all the difference in the world between acting to meet the common danger under a treaty of mutual security and to enable the people of a country to work out their own future, institutions, their own choices without having answers imposed upon them by force from outside, which is the case in Vietnam, and an attempt to prevent the people of a country from having their own government working out their own internal policy and arrangements as is the case of Czechoslovakia. This is the difference between black and white. Those who try to confuse it, it seems to me, are undertaking an enormous burden and among other things, an enormous disservice to the clarity which is important if we are to have peace in the world."



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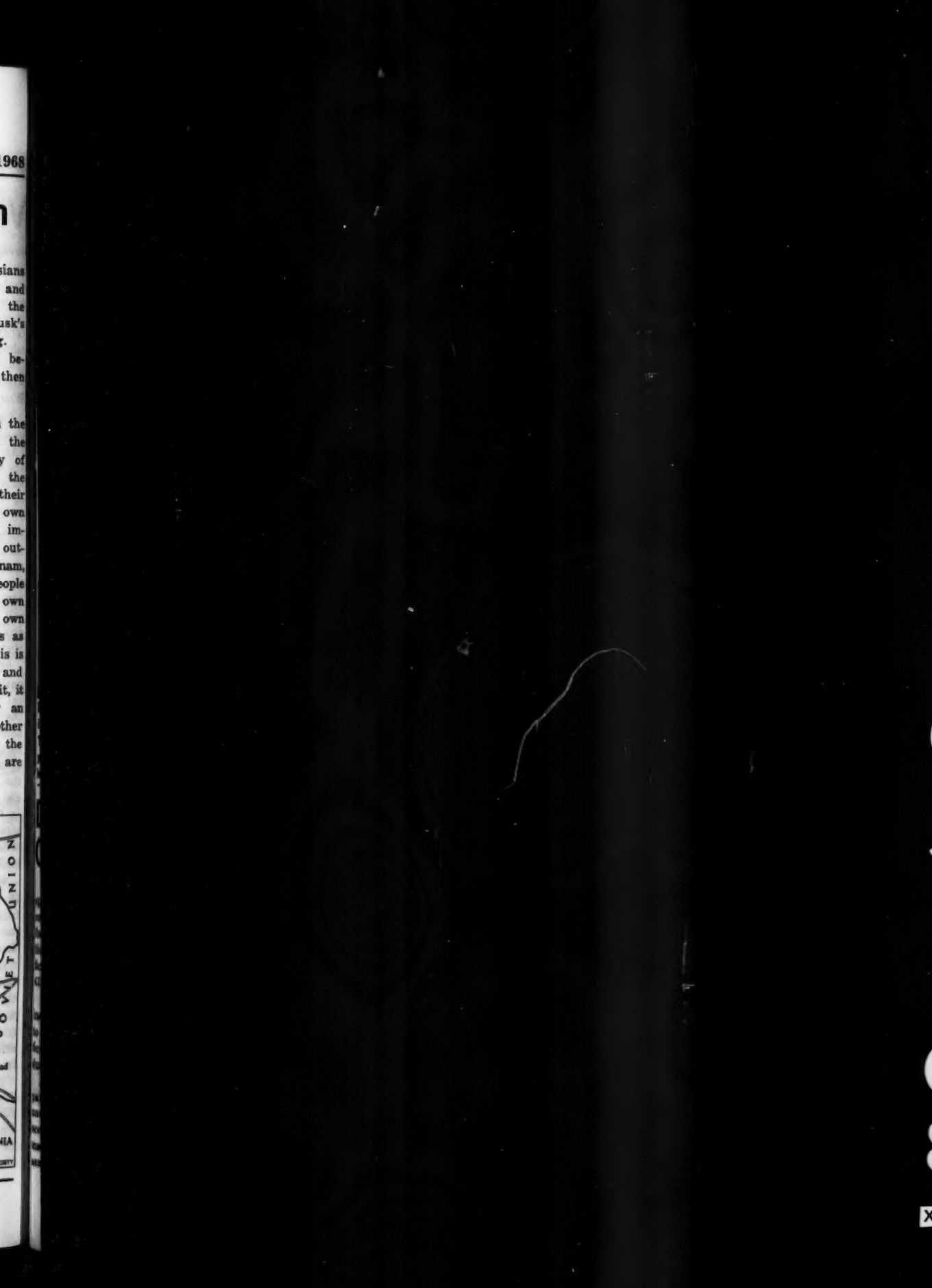
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